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American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005

Monthly Completion Report

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
Special Projects Section
(202) 682-8492/682-8518

Report Month: DECEMBER 1987

REPORT ON WELL COMPLETIONS IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

Wells actually completed in the current month may not be reported until several months later. The chart shown below illustrates the cumulative number of well completions for the current month and each of the eleven prior months, as now reported to the API. For comparison purposes, a corresponding curve describes the data, as then reported to the API, for the same twelve-month period a year ago.

These data are preliminary and subject to revision. The number of wells shown in the chart excludes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. The geographic distribution for wells and footage is not published on a monthly basis, but is available from the API's "Quarterly Completion Report."

Cumulative Number of Wells Reported as Completed
For Each of the Past 12 Months

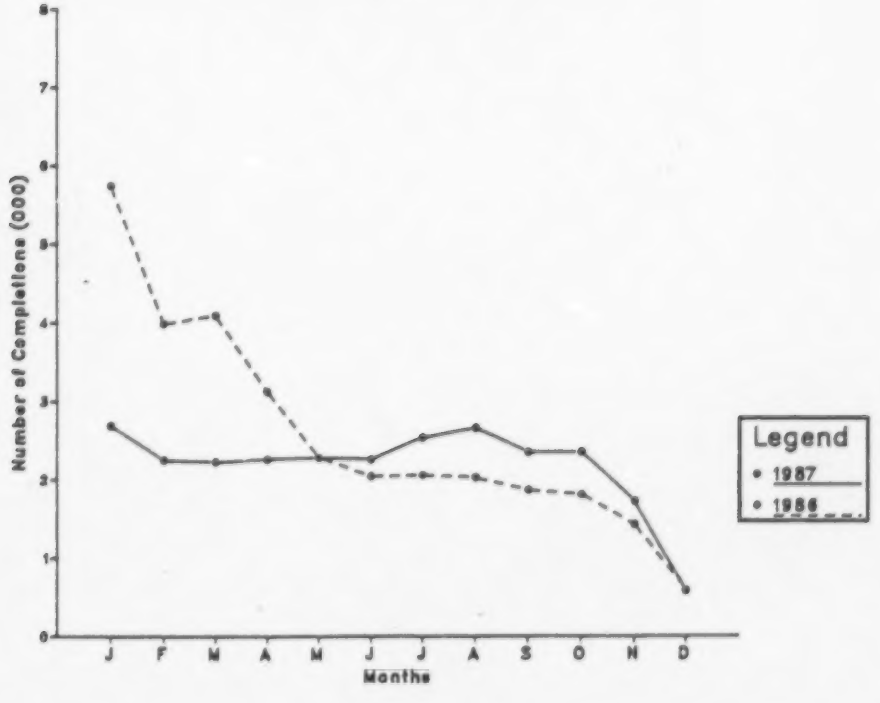

TABLE I: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF TOTAL WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF DECEMBER 23, 1987[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES		TOTAL ALL WELLS[4]	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1987	12,129	50,812,469	4,967	28,415,667	9,044	45,683,514	26,140	124,911,650	26,580	126,456,917
1987: DEC	188	711,488	55	260,108	339	1,811,198	582	2,782,794	583	2,784,524
NOV	825	3,360,587	216	1,326,065	685	3,706,006	1,726	8,392,658	1,738	8,428,380
OCT	1,052	4,470,084	416	2,524,679	885	4,383,227	2,353	11,377,990	2,395	11,584,011
SEP	1,131	4,938,486	349	2,092,997	869	4,401,341	2,349	11,432,824	2,387	11,570,694
AUG	1,311	5,111,559	482	2,613,711	866	4,423,689	2,659	12,148,959	2,706	12,304,822
JUL	1,198	4,726,131	465	2,858,688	870	4,167,490	2,533	11,752,309	2,599	11,944,350
JUN	1,063	4,419,527	417	2,474,347	776	3,914,752	2,256	10,808,626	2,297	10,948,484
MAY	1,107	4,726,224	426	2,453,266	746	3,820,198	2,279	10,999,688	2,340	11,249,613
APR	1,026	4,510,207	452	2,607,077	778	3,678,731	2,256	10,796,015	2,274	10,867,315
MAR	981	4,360,114	522	2,845,345	718	3,654,238	2,221	10,859,697	2,252	10,968,046
FEB	1,035	4,416,995	538	2,976,700	671	3,269,982	2,244	10,663,677	2,282	10,795,688
JAN	1,212	5,061,067	629	3,382,684	841	4,452,662	2,682	12,896,413	2,727	13,010,990
TOTAL 1986	17,771	72,441,072	7,515	40,722,463	11,819	58,368,048	37,105	171,531,583	37,751	173,724,605
1986: DEC	1,111	4,607,536	659	3,509,512	940	4,768,311	2,710	12,885,359	2,779	13,096,427
NOV	1,105	4,126,068	543	2,943,575	838	4,124,254	2,486	11,193,897	2,521	11,315,415
OCT	1,077	4,100,770	620	3,235,078	811	3,978,912	2,508	11,314,760	2,557	11,479,633
SEP	981	3,814,308	554	2,794,937	747	3,729,167	2,282	10,338,412	2,307	10,423,303
AUG	939	3,888,481	549	2,739,927	857	3,855,425	2,345	10,483,833	2,385	10,608,468
JUL	957	4,165,962	556	2,709,299	825	3,927,668	2,338	10,802,929	2,387	10,959,888
JUN	961	4,027,412	499	2,704,971	770	3,596,293	2,230	10,328,676	2,265	10,446,782
MAY	1,144	5,044,181	481	2,688,151	867	4,337,965	2,492	12,070,297	2,565	12,357,286
APR	1,669	7,367,166	637	3,809,620	1,010	4,876,198	3,316	16,052,984	3,375	16,267,307
MAR	2,266	9,535,466	706	4,174,752	1,270	6,232,290	4,242	19,942,508	4,297	20,110,427
FEB	2,302	9,743,246	695	4,080,402	1,164	6,296,133	4,161	20,119,781	4,231	20,383,015
JAN	3,259	12,020,476	1,016	5,332,239	1,720	8,645,432	5,995	25,998,147	6,082	26,276,654
TOTAL 1985	35,882	140,858,269	12,600	69,529,518	20,946	102,215,818	69,428	312,603,605	71,108	317,807,700
1985: DEC	2,808	11,266,142	926	5,186,168	1,805	9,114,082	5,539	25,566,392	5,651	25,918,995
NOV	2,590	10,191,902	889	5,062,946	1,533	7,523,888	5,012	22,778,736	5,093	23,075,674
OCT	3,024	11,716,511	1,194	6,100,389	1,767	8,393,533	5,985	26,210,433	6,083	26,537,867
SEP	2,842	10,655,960	1,075	5,586,087	1,712	8,225,312	5,629	24,467,359	5,727	24,727,949
AUG	3,311	12,444,636	1,111	5,962,432	1,910	8,888,634	6,332	27,295,702	6,434	27,592,610
JUL	3,104	11,338,142	1,088	5,953,691	1,828	8,416,519	6,020	25,708,352	6,182	26,173,868
JUN	2,986	11,361,481	1,017	5,444,752	1,666	7,703,734	5,669	24,509,967	5,815	24,971,518
MAY	2,879	11,752,592	913	5,095,565	1,665	8,214,282	5,457	25,062,439	5,654	25,662,014
APR	2,967	11,944,785	998	5,823,452	1,741	8,549,876	5,706	26,318,113	5,860	26,749,359
MAR	3,254	13,215,730	1,098	6,295,669	1,829	8,941,215	6,181	28,452,614	6,392	29,012,235
FEB	2,823	11,707,750	1,086	6,206,041	1,515	7,911,197	5,424	25,824,988	5,562	26,278,792
JAN	3,294	13,262,638	1,205	6,812,326	1,975	10,333,546	6,474	30,408,510	6,655	31,106,819
TOTAL 1984	43,824	166,630,406	14,818	81,222,074	25,130	118,459,103	83,772	366,311,583	86,000	372,109,686
TOTAL 1983	38,286	140,912,314	12,727	69,898,233	23,764	103,577,767	74,777	314,388,314	76,811	319,163,461

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE II: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF EXPLORATORY WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF DECEMBER 23, 1987[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1987	717	4,322,029	551	3,665,378	4,343	23,425,863	5,611	31,413,270
1987: DEC	7	51,667	9	43,753	173	948,417	189	1,043,837
NOV	48	303,995	28	165,535	351	2,038,028	427	2,507,558
OCT	64	354,239	47	297,195	438	2,300,150	549	2,951,584
SEP	65	418,061	39	256,805	430	2,285,217	534	2,960,083
AUG	63	358,541	57	346,760	409	2,184,497	529	2,889,798
JUL	74	389,605	46	313,237	390	2,063,174	510	2,766,016
JUN	67	422,927	49	382,268	346	1,892,101	462	2,697,296
MAY	66	372,945	52	378,043	354	1,930,507	472	2,681,495
APR	61	386,253	51	284,222	346	1,740,488	458	2,410,963
MAR	57	406,515	49	316,842	356	1,688,381	462	2,611,738
FEB	56	353,584	55	385,497	318	1,608,264	429	2,347,345
JAN	89	503,697	69	495,221	432	2,546,639	590	3,545,557
TOTAL 1986	966	5,830,972	724	4,905,639	5,248	29,253,983	6,938	39,990,594
1986: DEC	74	477,950	44	296,975	475	2,644,253	593	3,419,178
NOV	56	312,504	56	368,404	410	2,118,465	522	2,799,373
OCT	49	299,467	44	313,291	364	1,963,825	457	2,576,583
SEP	42	184,647	63	351,955	316	1,741,203	421	2,277,805
AUG	48	253,581	59	356,882	374	1,939,423	481	2,549,886
JUL	72	399,381	59	341,400	354	1,832,260	485	2,573,041
JUN	54	307,022	49	317,877	314	1,720,612	417	2,345,511
MAY	73	421,938	42	344,729	415	2,326,959	530	3,093,626
APR	93	649,961	63	511,390	444	2,460,834	600	3,622,185
MAR	111	751,183	65	529,566	543	3,102,389	719	4,383,138
FEB	114	730,135	73	529,741	498	3,143,350	685	4,403,226
JAN	180	1,043,203	107	643,429	741	4,260,410	1,028	5,947,042
TOTAL 1985	1,714	10,044,357	1,269	8,585,110	9,043	49,170,151	12,026	67,799,618
1985: DEC	146	862,999	87	601,883	852	4,764,614	1,085	6,229,496
NOV	107	620,505	89	676,036	683	3,716,586	879	5,013,127
OCT	142	797,510	86	513,320	779	4,043,650	1,007	5,354,480
SEP	114	623,773	78	536,339	743	3,953,482	935	5,113,594
AUG	165	985,120	100	665,218	806	4,159,253	1,071	5,809,591
JUL	131	757,111	94	593,460	765	3,904,517	990	5,255,088
JUN	126	666,047	118	843,469	700	3,457,717	944	4,967,233
MAY	152	896,719	124	782,877	685	3,808,831	961	5,490,427
APR	127	710,850	116	805,196	721	4,029,487	964	5,545,533
MAR	175	1,067,616	111	720,714	745	4,145,376	1,031	5,933,706
FEB	161	1,016,343	120	842,658	691	4,098,819	972	5,957,820
JAN	168	1,037,764	146	1,003,940	873	5,087,819	1,187	7,129,523
TOTAL 1984	2,310	12,522,863	1,577	9,942,920	11,121	58,458,236	15,008	80,924,019
TOTAL 1983	2,146	10,678,629	1,625	10,151,706	10,127	48,514,716	13,898	69,345,051

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE III: TOTAL NUMBER OF WELLS AND FOOTAGE ADDITIONS[1] BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR REPORTED TO THE API DURING DECEMBER 1987

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS AND DRY HOLES		TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[4] CURRENT MONTH	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1987	1,193	4,794,366	559	3,134,249	859	4,401,701	2,611	12,330,316	2,679	12,536,027
1987: DEC	188	711,488	55	260,108	339	1,811,198	582	2,782,794	583	2,784,524
NOV	573	2,448,175	167	1,057,109	287	1,591,274	1,027	5,096,558	1,036	5,125,674
OCT	187	804,781	126	776,756	84	418,863	397	2,000,400	417	2,105,687
SEP	99	369,238	69	369,541	55	240,762	223	979,541	228	996,610
AUG	39	111,487	47	232,079	28	125,050	114	468,616	117	471,046
JUL	30	131,135	29	144,241	20	76,229	79	351,605	99	377,921
JUN	22	67,162	29	135,260	13	30,982	64	233,404	66	239,502
MAY	15	58,563	16	58,651	13	38,797	44	156,011	51	169,257
APR	13	23,727	5	40,768	5	10,916	23	75,411	23	75,411
MAR	10	26,682	3	5,876	5	17,208	18	49,766	18	49,766
FEB	12	24,962	4	19,448	4	17,139	20	61,549	21	65,968
JAN	5	16,966	9	34,412	6	23,283	20	74,661	20	74,661
TOTAL 1986	62	144,282	45	213,349	30	47,843	137	405,474	148	446,621
1986: DEC	5	12,114	12	53,785	4	11,673	21	77,572	28	102,544
NOV	11	28,500	6	20,677	1	2,410	18	51,587	19	51,612
OCT	6	13,756	12	51,979	1	1,590	19	67,325	19	67,325
SEP	1	14,274	4	27,394	3	5,431	8	47,099	8	47,099
AUG	8	18,917	3	37,007	3	7,781	14	63,705	14	63,705
JUL	3	8,253	1	5,999	6	5,289	10	19,541	10	19,541
JUN	9	21,147	2	8,027	2	2,255	13	31,429	13	31,429
MAY	8	13,423	1	1,140	0	0	9	14,563	9	14,563
APR	5	5,370	0	0	2	1,575	7	6,945	7	6,945
MAR	1	1,750	0	0	6	6,714	7	8,464	7	8,464
FEB	2	2,223	0	0	2	3,125	4	5,348	7	21,498
JAN	3	4,555	4	7,341	0	0	7	11,896	7	11,896
TOTAL 1985	137	208,166	14	53,780	25	68,148	176	330,094	176	330,094
1985: DEC	10	16,958	2	6,431	6	16,251	18	39,640	18	39,640
NOV	20	29,160	4	12,676	2	14,477	26	56,313	26	56,313
OCT	33	42,010	2	3,042	3	4,122	38	49,174	38	49,174
SEP	17	21,125	2	7,306	4	4,391	23	32,822	23	32,822
AUG	12	25,477	0	0	3	8,565	15	34,042	15	34,042
JUL	15	21,943	1	14,419	1	1,450	17	37,812	17	37,812
JUN	22	38,946	0	0	1	3,350	23	42,296	23	42,296
MAY	7	9,117	0	0	0	0	7	9,117	7	9,117
APR	0	0	1	3,460	4	13,442	5	16,902	5	16,902
MAR	1	3,430	1	2,044	0	0	2	5,474	2	5,474
FEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAN	0	0	1	4,402	1	2,100	2	6,502	2	6,502
TOTAL 1984	15	33,555	9	41,655	14	35,330	38	110,540	38	110,540
YRS PRIOR TO 1984	24	50,332	5	24,715	9	25,436	38	100,483	39	102,308
TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[5]	1,431	5,230,701	632	3,467,748	937	4,578,458	3,000	13,276,907	3,080	13,525,590

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE I AND TABLE II:

1. The cumulative number of wells reported in this table is the total number of wells included in the API database for each of the months and years shown, as of December 23, 1987. These data are preliminary and subject to further revisions.

2. Includes multiple completion wells which produce oil from at least one zone, but may produce gas from one or more zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well.

3. Includes multiple completion wells which produce gas from all zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well. Gas wells also include so-called condensate wells.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. (Not applicable to Table II.)

TABLE III:

1. Total number of wells received by the API during the report month and classified by completion month and year. These wells are included in Tables I and II.

2. See footnote (2) above.

3. See footnote (3) above.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells.

5. Total wells reported are those received by the API for the report period November 28, 1987 through December 23, 1987. The sub-totals shown for each yearly period may not add up to the total wells reported for the period. Some wells, received during the report period, may have been completed in years prior to those shown in Table III.